

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2007 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-6 are currently pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nishikawa et al. (U.S. 5,488,852). Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nishikawa et al. in view of Bianchi (U.S. 5,307,666). Claims 3 and 6 are indicated to allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant does not necessarily concur in the rejections. Nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1 and 4-6 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: June 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By William R. McClellan
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